

Town of Lancaster Recreation  
Bantam Basketball, February 25, 2013

Patience, it is said, is a virtue. It is not often mentioned, though, as a quality needed to become a great basketball player. But for the 6, 7 and 8-year old boys of the Lancaster Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department's Bantam Basketball Program, patience is what helps them build a solid basketball foundation.

In a time when organized leagues begin, in almost every sport, at younger and younger ages, these boys forego the glamour and glory of the "Big Stage" to work on the fundamentals of the sport. It is not an easy thing to do, as many of them watch older siblings compete in the Recreation Department's Midget and Junior programs. Development, however, not competition, is what is stressed in the Bantam Program. And while they do play games during their Saturday morning sessions, their games are not measured by who has the most points on the scoreboard when the horn sounds, rather who can make ten lay-ups first, or pick up the most bean bags while dribbling, or shuffle down the floor and back again the quickest.

A staff with over 100 combined years of experience, led by veteran instructors Dan Strohmer and Steve Jachimiak, lead the boys through these contests, as well as other drills, conditioning exercises and game situations. They are taught not only the basics of dribbling, passing and shooting, but how to play defense, how to pivot, how to move without the ball, and many of the other nuances of the game.

The program, which has been in existence for close to fifty years, employs activities that allow the participants to handle the ball – to dribble, to pass, to shoot – more often than they would if they were playing in a traditional, organized game. It also utilizes smaller basketballs and lower baskets so the participants do not develop bad technical habits while trying to do things they are not physically able to do. And when these boys, many of whom have been in the program for three years, step up to the next level, they are better equipped to succeed because of the preparation they have received.

The majority of them do move on to that next level, which is the Midget Program, and to the Junior Program after that. A perusal of the local high school rosters would find the names of many program graduates, as well. And while many of the Bantam players aspire to play at that level someday, for now they practice. They practice ball handling. They practice shooting. They practice defense. But maybe most importantly, they practice patience.

**2012-2013 BANTAM PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:**

FRONT ROW (left to right) - Jason Mendola, Jacob Molino, Daniel Handy, Peter Handy, Riley Molnar. SECOND ROW – Trevor Hutt, Matthew Bauer, Dane Mescall, J.J. Counihan, Travis Bauer, Tyler Derkovitz. THIRD ROW – Ryan Teichmann, Jack Martindale, William Mueller, Ryan Andolina, Dean Wendel, Richie Kamats, Joseph Harrington, Michael Wolski, Eric Frys, Ryan Corcoran, Alex Folster, Jack Harrington. BACK ROW – Instructors Ryan Fitzsimmons, Dennis Mescall, Steve Jachimiak.



### **GIRLS MIDGET LEAGUE**

Robins 36 Jays 13

The Robins were in full control of this game from the opening tip as they cruised to a 36-13 victory over the Jays. Molly Mahony continues to dominate as she racked up 18 points along with 8 boards. Teammates Paige Genewick and Melissa Lubey score 8 and 6 respectively. Irene Handy rounded out the scoring with 4 points. Larissa-Kate Robinson led the Jays with 10 points and 7 boards.

Cardinals 46 Eagles 23

The Cardinals pulled off a big win against the Eagles as they were led by 3 players in double digits. Rachel Handley led all scorers with 18 points and 5 assists. Amber Conklin and Victoria Allen had 12 points a piece. McKenna Guari chipped in a basket to round out the scoring. Hanna Wozniak led the Eagles with 14 points and 4 boards. Emily Handy chipped in 6 points in the losing effort.

### **BOYS JUNIOR LEAGUE**

Raptors 48 Sixers 45

The Sixers suffered their first loss of the season as the Raptors triumphed 48-45. The Raptors went on an impressive 16-0 run in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half to secure the win. Mike Niewiemiński (17 points) and Colin Reformat (14 points) each scored 11 points in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half to lead the surge. Welsey Watson was also in double digits dropping in 13. Trevor Perkins chipped in 4 points for the victorious Raptors. Joe Biniaszewski led all scorers with 20 points while grabbing 11 boards. Point Guard Nathan Adamec scored 11 points while dishing out 6 assists for the Sixers.

Hawks 51 Rockets 28

The Hawks won an easy one as player got on the score sheet in a 51-28 victory over the Rockets. Alex Konst and Kyle Backert led the Hawks with 10 points a piece. Glenn Stever and Vito Fulciniti dropped 8 points a piece. Kyle Kirsh played some scrappy defense along with his 6 points. Zach Penska put in 4 while Jacob Jerebko added 3. Mike Anzalone also chipped in a bucket. Andrew Helenbrook continued to lead the Rockets as he put in 16 points. David Farace has a season high 6 points in the losing effort.

Wolves 33 Magic 29

The Wolves pulled off a win in this highly defense tilt. Down 4 after the first half, The Wolves put together a strong 2<sup>nd</sup> half offensively behind the shooting of Kevin Walter (10 points) and scoring of Connor Fuller (10 points). Joe Baberio added 7 points while running point. Alex Barbaro added 5 for the win. The Magic were led by Joshua Schaner's 11 points. Tim Molik, Brett Kaska, and Jason Glauser all had 4 points a piece.

Wizards 50 Heat 49

The game of the week belongs to the Wizards vs. Heat. Spectators saw the game tied 8 times while the lead change 6 times in the final 2 minutes. Guard Jesse Kucewicz (12 points) took an inbound pass with 5 seconds left on the clock and went coast to coast for a layup right before time expired to give the Wizards the 50-49 victory. Connor Donhauer led the Wizards with 13 points while Joe Nicpon added 8. Nate Martens and Jason Nicpon added 6 points a piece. Kyle Kindred rounded out the scoring with 5 points. Ben Damiani put on a clinic at the free throw line, going 7 for 7. He finished with a game high 17 points. Point man Troy Gooch put in 12 point while John Kisker added 10 in the losing effort.